

**Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)**  
**New Jersey's State Priority Plan**

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# **FOREST LAND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

(Revised 12/02)

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(Approved 08/01/03)

## **NEW JERSEY STATE PRIORITY PLAN**

**2003-2007**

### **I. General Information, Background and Baseline Information**

- (a) The Forest Lands Enhancement Program (FLEP) is authorized under the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Forestry Act of 1978 as amended by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, and is established to provide additional financial assistance to State Foresters to encourage the long-term sustainability of non-industrial private forestlands (NIPF).
- (b) This State Priority Plan (SPP) sets forth the rules and procedures by which the FLEP will be administered by the New Jersey Forest Service (NJFS) to promote sustainable forest management practices on non-industrial private forest land. The resource management expertise, educational, and financial assistance provided under the Program will complement rather than replace or duplicate any existing state and/or federal programs providing assistance to NIPF. Management activities and practices funded under this program will be designed to provide multiple resource benefits.
- (c)
  - (1) Apportionment of funds received under this should result in a balance and coordinated state and federal program that provides management expertise, financial assistance, and education to NIPF owners. State and the Forest Stewardship Program will be used to complement the program objectives.
  - (2) Currently the State employs three FTEs to work on private lands, while Cooperative Extension provides some landowners educational programming and materials, and the Forest Stewardship Program provides some financial assistance for Forest Stewardship Plans. Presently no state cost share is available for forestry practices. Thus, FLEP will be used to augment gaps in the service, education and financial assistance not being addressed with existing programs. Technical assistance to implement FLEP practices will be provided by NJFS, Division of Fish and Wildlife, consulting foresters and other natural resource professionals.
  - (3) The FLEP educational program will include technical training to resource professionals to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of FLEP practices. Grants may be provided to Cooperative Extension, Forest Resource Education Center (FREC), Soil Conservation Districts and/or other sources to provide additional education opportunities to NIPF landowners. Evaluation of the educational activities will be provided by course evaluation and surveys. The NJ Forest Stewardship Committee will be advised of annual progress and accomplishments. Technical assistance accomplishments will be reported annually by the number of acres affected by the practice performed via PMAS.

(4) Baseline Date and need.

- i) Baseline Data from the recent Forest Survey (1999) shows New Jersey with 2,100,000 acres of forestland. Of this total, 1,876,000 acres are classified as timberland, with 1,288,200 acres being privately owned. Sixty-two percent of New Jersey's forestland is owned by an estimated 88,700 private individuals and enterprises. Approximately 256,000 acres of the privately owned woodland are enrolled in the Farmland Assessment Program and have management plans and or forest stewardship plans, which represent about 3,700 woodlots. This offers ample need and opportunity for an additional 250,000 acres of plans.
- ii) The 1999 Forest Survey also indicated that the about 441,000 acres of pole-sized timber and 160,000 acres in sapling seedling size trees. While not all of this acreage is overstocked, NJFS experience shows that much of this acreage is in need of forest stand improvement about 40,000 acres are considered overstocked by the Forest Survey.
- iii) The 1999 Forest Survey shows 17,700 acres of private land as non-stocked. This number is an indication of reforestation/afforestation potential need including what is needed to establish forested riparian buffers.

## II. Definitions

**Capital Investment or Improvement:** Durable equipment or assets capable of being amortized or depreciated over a period of 3 or more years.

**Catastrophic Natural Event:** A large scale, destructive, natural event, which for the purposes of the Program, shall include but not be limited to wildfire, insect infestations, disease outbreaks, drought, floods, windstorm, freezing, ice storm, hail, sleet, mudslides, landslides, earthquakes, avalanches, tornadoes, volcanoes, hurricanes, or tsunamis.

**Chief:** The Chief of the Forest Service, United State Department of Agriculture.

**Committee:** The State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee established pursuant to section 16 USC 2113 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act as amended (16 U.S.C. 2101, et seq.).

**Concurrence:** Review, verification, and confirmation, by the Responsible Official that the State Priority Plan contains all of the key elements included in the law and regulations.

**Cost-share Program:** payment, which is used to offset a maximum of 75 percent of the cost incurred by a landowner for implementation of a State approved activity or practice, authorized under this Program.

**Financial Assistance:** Financial assistance. Funds disbursed as an award by the Federal Government to an eligible party from the FLEP annual apportionment, in the form of money, including grants, agreements, contracts, and other arrangements.

**Fiscal Year:** The fiscal year of the United State Government, which is October 1 through September 30.

**Landowner:** An individual group, association, corporation, Indian Tribe, or other legal private forest land or a person who receives concurrence from the landowner for practice implementation and who hold a lease on the land for a minimum of 10 years. Corporations whose stocks are publicly traded or owners principally engaged in the primary processing of raw wood products are excluded.

**Management Plan:** A plan prepared by a natural resource management professional and approved by the State Forester that describes projects and activities to be carried out by the landowner, consistent with the landowner's objectives. The plan shall apply to those portions of the landowner's property on which any practice or activity funded under the Program shall be carried out, as well as lands of the owner that are affected by the activity or practice.

**Natural Resource Management Professional:** Any person who is recognized by the State Forester as having the knowledge and skills to develop landowner plans for managing the biological, economic, and environmental interrelationship of forest resources and to identify appropriate activities to manage, protect, or enhance forest resources.

**Non-industrial Private Forest Land:** Rural lands with existing tree cover, or which are suitable for growing trees, and are owned by any non-industrial private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian tribe, or other private legal entity so long as the individual, group, association, corporation, tribe, or entity has definitive decision-making authority over the lands.

**Practice:** A prescribed, natural resource management activity that is consistent with a practice plan and implemented through FLEP to enhance the multiple resources values and benefits and that results in improved conditions on non-industrial private forest land. A practice may consist of multiple components.

**Practice Plan.** A plan prepared by a service representative and approved by the State Forester that documents the specific practices that are to occur as a result of a landowner application for cost-share. A practice plan may be a stand-alone document or it may be a part of a management plan.

**Regional Forester:** Employee of the NJ Forest Service designated in charge of one of three regions of the state. Unless otherwise amended, the Regional Forester will be the State Forester representative.

**Responsible Official:** U.S. Forest Service Area Director charged with the administration of the Program.

**Service Representative:** A natural resource management professional recognized by the State Forester to perform any or all of the following technical assistance functions: review and approval of landowner plans; determination of need and feasibility of practice; establishment of site – specific practice specifications; and certifications of completion of practices specific practice and performance of compliance checks pursuant to this subpart.

**State Forester:** The Assistant Director/State Forester of the NJ Forestry Services, Division of Parks and Forestry.

**State Priority Plan:** A document required for a State to participate in the Program that is jointly prepared by the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee, to facilitate long-term sustainability of non-industrial private forest lands within the State.

### **III. National Program Administration**

The Chief will:

- (a) USDA-FS will provide general program oversight
- (b) Distribute funding to states.
- (c) Be guided by the rules to distribute funds.
- (d) In consultation may develop priorities and practices in addition to national priorities of tree planting, forest state maintenance and improvement.
- (e) Review State Priority Plans and provide concurrence.
- (f) Enter into agreements with other USDA agency.
- (g) Funds will be distributed with no required match, in one payment of the total amount annually upon concurrence of the Responsible Official of the SPP.
- (h) Retain final authority to resolve issues, which may arise.
- (i) By September 30, 2006 submit to the Secretary of Agriculture, summarizing all activities and practices funded under the Program as the of that date.

### **IV. Regional Program Administration (Responsible Official program)**

- (a) The Responsible Official shall review and provide concurrence with State priority plans, including any revisions of such plans.
- (b) The Responsible Official shall provide oversight for all aspects of FLEP, including program reviews and shall ensure that the Forest Service is represented on each State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee.
- (c) The Responsible Official shall disburse funds to the State Forester or their designated third parties in a timely manner.
- (d) The Responsible Official shall determine the final funds distribution to States.
- (e) The funds will be distributed to individual States based on the following criteria:
  - (1) National priorities;
  - (2) National allocations factors;
  - (3) Regional and State-wide priorities;
  - (4) Ability of the State to deliver FLEP; and
  - (5) Direction in the Forest Service Manual Chapter 3310.
- (f) The Responsible Official must submit an annual report to the Chief summarizing all activities and practices funded through FLEP for the previous fiscal year.
- (g) By September 1, 2006 the Responsible Official must submit a cumulative report to the Chief summarizing all activities and practices funded through FLEP as of June 1, 2006 along with copies of the reports submitted from the participating States.

### **V. State Program Administration**

- (a) This State Priority Plan (SPP) was developed and will be maintained to establish program priorities, policies and procedures. In implementing the program, New Jersey shall target resources to achieve the objects of the federal program by providing educational objectives, technical assistance, and financial assistance for forest landowners who participate in the program. New Jersey's objectives are in complete accordance and consistent with the federal objectives. The federal objectives of this program are to invest practices to establish, restore,

- protect, manage, maintain, and enhance the health and productivity of the NIPF lands in the United States for timber, habitat for flora and fauna, soil, water and air quality, wetlands, and riparian buffers. The program targets afforestation, reforestation, improvement of poorly stocked stands, timber stand improvements, practices necessary to improve seedling growth and survival, and growth enhancement practices occur where needed to enhance and sustain the long-term productivity of timber and non-timber forest resources to help meet future public demand for all forest resources and provide environmental benefits. Other objectives are to reduce the risks and to help restore, recover, and mitigate the damage to forest caused by fire, insect, invasive species, disease, and damaging weather among other benefits.
- (b) This plan outlines program policies, priorities and procedures to accomplish the objectives. The plan has been developed jointly by the State Forester and the Committee and with the consideration of public input. The draft SPP was shared with the NRCS Technical Committee, the NJ Forestry Association and NJ Approved Foresters with a request for comments. A survey was given to participants of the 2002 New Jersey Woodland Owners Conference in order to help guide the FLEP resource allocations. Questions on the form related to: cost-share, technical assistance and education amounts, priority and delivery method of practices, minimum acreage eligible for program participation. Comments were then used in SPP development and priorities, cost-share breakdown, etc. were taken into consideration. The draft SPP and Manual were also available for review on the NJFS web site. In addition to the above, all NJ Approved Consulting foresters in our database were contacted and solicited the address for their comments. The latter would provide information and concerns the professional foresters receive on a daily basis working with their clients.
  - (c) The plan will become effective July 1, 2003, contingent upon approval of this plan by the Responsible Official and receipt of program funding to the state, and continue through FY 2007. However, the plan can be revised, if necessary, on an annual basis by the State Forester and the Committee jointly and resubmitted to the Responsible Official for approval.
  - (d) Responsibilities:
    - State Forester will: develop and maintain state priority plan to establish program priorities, policies and procedures utilizing the Committee. Administer FLEP funding. Monitor program progress. Amend priority plan with a majority vote. Report accomplishments to USDA-FS annually as required. In addition, by July 2006, the State Forester of each State participating in FLEP must submit to the respective Responsible Official a summary report of all State activities and practices funded through FLEP as of June 1, 2006.
    - NJ Forest Stewardship Committee will: development, review and approval of State Priority Plan. Maintain written record of program involvement through minutes and other process documentation. Monitor program progress. Other State specific duties.
    - Other Agencies/Organizations not represented on the Committee are not anticipated as participating in the Program.
  - (e) Upon receipt of FLEP, funding the program will be administered by the NJFS.
  - (f) The program's progress will be monitored by NJFS staff. Accomplishments reporting will be made using standard reporting procedures.
  - (g) This plan has been developed by the State Forester with concurrence of the Committee and with the consideration of public input.
  - (h) Upon completion, the SPP will be submitted to the USFS Northeastern Area Director for concurrence.

- (i) The baseline data on the forest resources of the State can be found in I (4) above.
- (j) New Jersey's priorities will be same as the national priorities for the program. Regionally, equal cost-share funds allocations will be made. Applications will be taken on first come first served continuous basis until all the funds are obligated. To set priorities in the program the following percentage will be dedicated as follows:
  - 70% financial assistance/cost share program
  - 10% education programs
  - 20% technical assistance/administration
- (1) The FLEP cost-share program will be used to encourage and assist landowners to carry out priority practices as described in this plan. With no state cost-share available and limited availability of other federally funded programs, consequently factor into the breakdown of NJ FLEP funding allocation. Therefore, the need of woodland owners and the stewardship desire to have as many people enrolled as possible into the program, the majority of available funding, 70% will be allocated to financial assistance/cost-share. In order to properly train consulting foresters, woodland owners and other resource professionals in the FLEP Priority categories, 10% is devoted to educational programs. The need of program administration that includes: review of FLEP applications, 'customer service', on-site inspection of practices, database management, GIS coverage, and reporting (monthly and yearly), 20% will be allocated to provide these services.
- (2) Depending on the total allocation to the state, it is anticipated that in the first year administrative cost and education programs may be slightly higher than the above noted amount due to the startup of this new program. After the first year however, the percentage will follow V (j) above. The administrative funds will be used to support program oversight including processing applications, issuing payments and maintaining program records and documentation. The technical assistance funds will be used for the ground verification of practices, plan preparation when needed, and training of consulting foresters and NJFS personnel.
- (k) Cost-share will be made available according to section IX.
  - (1) Ownership and acreage limitations are found in section VI (b)(d).
  - (2) Forest Management Plan is defined in section VII.
- (l) Annual and aggregate payment is found in section VI (b).
- (m) Eligible practices are found in section VIII (a).
- (n) Payment of cost-share is covered in section X. Cost-share rates were developed by committee based on their experience with other programs including FIP and SIP and give a priority for all practices. (See appendix #B)
- (o) The SPP will be displayed on the NJFS web site and be available upon request.

## **VI. Eligibility Requirements**

- (a) Who Qualifies for FLEP Assistance.
  - (1) Non-industrial Private Landowners qualify for FLEP. See Landowner definition.



- (2) All NIPF landowners are defined in Sec. 230.31 of the draft rule, including those who produce forest products on a part-time or intermittent basis, who meet the requirements of this section, are eligible to apply for and receive assistance under the program without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, disability political affiliation, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.
- (3) Forestry Services personnel are eligible for FLEP. Projects on land belonging to full-time Forestry Service employees will be approved/disapproved by the Director, Division of Parks and Forestry
- (4) Public ownerships do NOT qualify.
- (b) Limitations of cost-share: A landowner is eligible to receive cost-share funds under the Program for treatment for not more than a total of \$10,000 annually. There is no maximum ownership size limit.
- (c) A Forest Stewardship Plan is the only plan that may be cost-shared. FLEP funds for cost sharing forest stewardship plans will be used only after NJ Forest Stewardship Program annual funds allocated for plans have been obligated.
- (d) The minimum ownership is 5 contiguous acres over and above home site with a minimum project size of one (1) acre.
- (e) Landowners must agree to maintain FLEP practices for a minimum of 10 years unless otherwise designated by the State Forest Stewardship Committee. Landowners who fail to maintain the practice for 10 years will be required to repay the New Jersey Forest Service the cost share (plus 10%). If the property is sold and the practice is not maintained, the original landowner is liable for the repayment.

## **VII. Concerns, Issues and Treats Related to New Jersey's Forest Resources**

- (a) With a state population of 8.5 million residents New Jersey is continuing to face many environmental land pressures. These pressures have a direct impact on forest and agroforest resources. The following are issues, threats, problems and concerns confronting non-industrial private forest and agroforestry resources in New Jersey.
  - Loss of open space due to development
  - Loss of habitat for many species of plants, fauna, and ecological important communities
  - Increased regulations for the protection of threatened and endangered species affecting ability to effectively manage our forest resource.
  - Loss of outlets to market forestry wood products
  - Insect and disease threats like hemlock wooly adelgid (HWA), bacterial leaf scorch (BLS), southern pine beetle (SPB), gypsy moth, and Asian long-horned beetle (ALB)
  - Abiotic influences such as air pollution
  - Degrading water quality from developmental pressures and associated runoff from pavement and managed turfgrass
  - Rising property taxes affecting landowners ability to maintain larger properties
  - Loss of agricultural lands within the state
  - Increasing demand for open space recreation by an increasing population
  - Decreased level of forest management occurring in New Jersey woodlands
  - Wildfire risk associated with the Pinelands ecology
  - Fragmentation and loss of large contiguous ownerships
  - High level of vegetation browsing within the forest due to high deer population
  - Proliferation of invasive plants displacing native forest vegetation

### **VIII. Desired Objectives and Environmental, Economic, Social Values and Public Benefits to be Derived from FLEP**

Through FLEP, it is hoped to more effectively manage, maintain, protect and enhance NIPF in New Jersey. Cost-share for forestry practices will provide the ability and a direct economic incentive for forest landowners to more actively engage in forest management and stewardship. Most of NJ's NIPF lands are under-managed. Providing a cost-share incentive will assist forest landowners in improving forest health; recreational opportunities; threatened and endangered and non-threatened and endangered species habitat; water quality; while enhancing and sustaining the long term productivity of timber and non-timber resources. Cost-share funding can be used to partially qualify for the state's Farmland Assessment Program (FLA) income requirement, reducing the tax burden on forest landowners. An increased level of forest management through stewardship will lead to an increase of forest products thereby creating more employment opportunities. FLEP, in conjunction with forest stewardship, will help achieve these goals and nurture a greater public appreciation for the forest resources of New Jersey.

### **IX. Incentives for Sustainable Forestry**

FLEP will provide an incentive and stimulate an increased level of active management. Sustainable forestry is important to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. FLEP funds can help forest land owners engage in thinning practices to improve their woodlots that have long been neglected and be used to reforest areas that have been harvested, are understocked or transform non-forested lands to forest lands. Most forest stewardship properties are also under the state's FLA Program requiring income to be made from forestry and agricultural practices. FLEP funding can be an incentive to practice forestry on woodlots to help meet that income requirement.

### **X. Distribution of funds to program components, objectives, administration, technical assistance and education**

#### **(a) Objectives, Administration and Technical Assistance**

In order to provide a suite of services to the woodland owners of NJ, FLEP will complement existing state and/or federal programs. These include but are not limited to WHIP and the Forest Stewardship Program (FSP). A portion of FLEP funding will be allocated to each of the elements defined under 230.25. Resource management expertise will be provided by and in conjunction with the natural resource agencies within the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), private forestry consultants, NRCS, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and other professional natural resource consultants. Unless necessary to cost-share stewardship plans, all FLEP cost-share assistance will go toward cost sharing of FLEP practices. Cost-share sources from other assistance programs will be coordinated with the FLEP program.

#### **(b) Education**

Educational Assistance includes the development and implementation of programs in the form of training for private consultants, workshops for private landowners, advertisements and written materials, and distribution of pamphlets and brochures. Web pages specific to FLEP will be added to the private lands management section of the NJFS web site that will contain the SPP and Manual along with other pertinent information.

Woodland owners and consulting foresters interested in FLEP will be trained in the following forestry practice areas:

- Attending portable sawmill demonstrations.

- Species available for reforestation/afforestation through State Forest Tree Nursery Tours
- Seed collection from phenotypic superior trees
- Processing of seed for sowing, lifting procedures, sorting and grading procedures, and packaging for delivery
- Silvicultural treatments
- Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- FLEP Application procedures
- Marketing of tradition and non-traditional forest products

These demonstrations will be held throughout the state, at the new Forest Resource Education Center (FREC) and at state parks and forests where there is a history of silvicultural activity. Project Learning Tree (PLT) will have a curriculum designed to guide FLEP applicants through the practice areas listed above and will document and evaluate accomplishments. Short and long-term outcomes will be evaluated by having participants complete post-workshop evaluations, interviews and paper surveys. Other techniques for gathering information such as web-based surveys will also be utilized. Survey results will be analyzed by the providers of this educational assistance will be those resources professionals listed in X. (a) above.

## **XI. Forest Management Plan**

- (a) Landowners must have a Management Plan to qualify for FLEP that describes projects and activities to be carried out by the landowner, consistent with the landowner's objectives. Only management plans that meet the minimum guidelines for NJ Forest Stewardship Plans or plans that meet the criteria of a woodland management plan under NJAC 18:15-2.7 (Appendix A), and approved by the Regional Forester will be permitted. Previously approved plans that do not specifically address needed or requested cost share practices must be amended by providing a FLEP practice plan.
- (b) New woodland management plans and forest stewardship plans must include the practice plan if FLEP cost share is to be requested.
- (c) Information regarding the presence of federally listed threatened or endangered species must be added to the woodland management plan if it is not already present.

## **XII. Program Practices**

- (a) Activities under each practice, cost-share percent, and maximum payment are in Appendix #B. (NJ FLEP Manual – Short Reference)
  - (1) FLEP 1 – Forest Stewardship Plan Development
  - (2) FLEP 2 – Afforestation/Reforestation
  - (3) FLEP 3 – Forest Stand Improvement
  - (4) FLEP 4 – Agroforestry (under construction)
  - (5) FLEP 5 – Water Quality Improvement and Watershed Protection
  - (6) FLEP 6 – Fish and Wildlife Habitat (but not fish)
  - (7) FLEP 7 – Forest Health and Protection

- (8) FLEP 8 – Invasive Species Control
- (9) FLEP 9– Fire and Catastrophic Risk Reduction
- (10) FLEP10 – Fire and Catastrophic Event Rehabilitation
- (11) FLEP 11- Special Practices

(b) Approval priorities for FLEP cost share funds will be as follows:

High Priority

- FLEP 1 (new plans)
- FLEP 2
- FLEP 3
- FLEP 7

Medium Priority

- FLEP 1 (revised plans)
- FLEP 5
- FLEP 6
- FLEP 9
- FLEP 10

Low Priority

- FLEP 4
- FLEP 8
- FLEP 11

- (c) In the application and use of pesticides, including biological, chemical, and behavioral substances, practice performance shall meet all label requirements, State and Federal regulations, and local ordinances.
- (d) Anyone who carries out practices under this Program shall be responsible for obtaining the authorities, rights, easements, or other approvals necessary to the performance and maintenance of the practices in keeping with applicable laws and regulations.

**XIII. Application and Approval** (Internal procedures are found in Appendix #B - Manual)

- (a) Applications (Appendix C) will be taken at any NJFS Regional office by the Regional Forester or his staff. Office locations and address are available on NJFS web site at [http://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/forest/njfs\\_regional\\_offices.html](http://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/forest/njfs_regional_offices.html).
- (b) Applications will be taken on first come, first served continuous basis until all the funds are obligated.
- (c) Only High Priority practices will be approved during the first month of the program, High and Medium practices during the second month and if funds still remain, High, Medium and Low from the third month on until funds are all obligated.
- (d) The Regional Forester will approve cost-share projects after determining the landowner meets the eligibility requirements including a management plan, determines practice is needed and feasible, and the practice is consistent with funding priorities listed in IXC.

- (e) Applications will not be approved unless cost-share funds are available. If available, the required amount will be obligated by the Central Office with New Jersey Treasury.
- (f) When the application is approved, the landowner will be given a copy of the application and informed the project can start. The Central Office will also be given copies and be informed of the required completion date.
- (g) Applications that cannot be funded in current year will be placed on a waiting list for either, when funds become available the following year or because of cancellations and/or slippage.

#### **XIV. Payment to Landowners**

- (a) The landowner will have 12 months to complete a practice. If factors beyond the control of the landowner delay the practice completion, a 6-month extension may be granted. Extensions must be requested in writing and when granted the landowner will be notified in writing. Practices not completed by the completion date will have the application and obligated funds cancelled and the funds made available to landowners on a waiting list.
- (b) Upon certification by the Regional Forester that the practice has been completed in accordance with specifications, the cost-share will be calculated, and a payment voucher processed and payment dispersed to the landowner. The Regional Forester or his service representatives shall have the right of access to the owner's property to inspect practices for the duration of the practice maintenance period.
- (c) Maximum Payment: Maximum \$10,000 per year per landowner per fiscal year (may be for several projects).
- (d) FLEP payments can not exceed 75 percent of the actual costs incurred by a participating owner but not exceed the designed maximum payment rate specified by the program. Non-federal program funds and other donated assistance may be used to supplement cost-share under the program; however, the total of all funds and assistance shall not exceed 100 percent of the actual cost of practice implementation.
- (e) Partial payments will not be allowed in New Jersey FLEP.
- (f) Where performance actually rendered does not meet the minimum specifications of a practice due to factors beyond the landowner's control, the State Forester or designee may approve cost-share payment one of the following conditions:
  - (1) The landowner repeats applications of components previously implemented or establishes additional eligible components under such terms and conditions as the Service Representative may require to meet the objectives of the forest management plan; or
  - (2) The landowner establishes to the satisfaction of the Service Representative that:
    - (i) A reasonable effort was made to meet the minimum requirements; and the practice, as performed, adequately meets the objectives of the landowner as described in the forest management plan or practice plan.
- (g) In case of death or incompetence of any landowner, the State Forester shall approve cost-share to the successor if the successor agrees to maintain the practices for the duration of the required maintenance period.
- (h) Any landowner who may be entitled to any cost-share payment under this subpart may assign the right thereto, in whole or in part, under the following terms:

- (1) Payments may be assigned only for performance of a Program practice.
- (2) A payment that is made to a landowner may not be assigned to pay or secure any pre-existing debt.
- (3) Neither the United States, the US Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, the State Forester nor any disbursing agent shall be liable in any suit if payment is made to an assignor rather than to an assignee, and nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize any suit against the United States, the US Forest Service, the Secretary, the Forester or any disbursing agent if payment is not made to the assignee, or if payment is made to only one of several assignees.
  - (i) No financial assistance or portion thereof due and owing any landowner shall be subject to any claim arising under State law by any creditor, except agencies of the United States Government.

## **XV. Prohibitions**

- (a) No financial assistance funds shall be paid for the following:
  - (1) Costs incurred before an application for cost-share is approved; and
  - (2) No cost-share shall be paid for repeating practices on the same site by the landowner which have been implemented under any other federal, state or local government programs, or private sector programs, except where such practices are repeated due to a failure of a prior practice without fault of the landowner.
- (b) No program funds shall be expended by a recipient for capital investments, capital improvements, purchase of land or any interest in land, or any interest in an endowment.

## **XVI. Recapture of Payment**

- (a) If an owner, successor, or assignee uses any scheme or device to unjustly benefit from this program, the financial assistance funds shall be withheld or a refund of all or part of any program payments otherwise due or paid that person shall be secured. A scheme or device includes, but is not limited to, coercion, fraud or misrepresentation, false claims, or any business dissolution, reorganization, revival, or other legal mechanism designed for or having the effect of evading the requirements of this subpart.
- (b) If any owner or successor takes any action or fails to take action, which results in the destruction or impairment of a prescribed practice for the duration of the practice, financial assistance funds shall be withheld or a recapture of all or part of any program payments otherwise due or shall be secured based on the extent and effect of destruction and impairment.
- (c) If owner sells, conveys, or otherwise loses control of lands, upon which there is a continuing obligation to maintain a practice, and the new owner does not agree to assume the responsibility for maintaining the practice, the owner who was originally obligated to maintain the practice shall be liable to reimburse the State for all cost-share on such practices.
- (d) Nothing in this section requiring the withholding or refunding of financial assistance funds shall preclude any penalty or liability otherwise imposed by law.

- (e) Where the owner has received cost-share for any practice that has been unsuccessful, due to factors beyond the owner's control, the service representative may require that the practice be re-established and shall approved cost-share for such activity.

## **XVII. Reconsideration**

Any owner, successor or assignee who is dissatisfied with any determination made under the program may request reconsideration by the State Forester and, if the matter is still not resolved the Area Director. All requests for reconsideration shall be in writing and shall contain factual information explaining the basis for requesting reconsideration. All decisions upon reconsideration shall be issued in writing.

## **XVIII. Information Requirements**

The requirements governing the preparation of a State Priority Plan in sec 230.4 of this subpart, the forest management plan in sec 230.6 of this subpart, and the application requirements of sec. 230.8 constitute information requirements as defined by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44U.S.C. 3307) and have been approved for use pursuant to 5 CFR part 1320 and assigned OMB Control # \*\*\*\*\*.

# APPENDIX A

- 1. Minimum Guidelines for NJ Forest Stewardship Program**
- 2. NJ Farmland Assessment – Criteria for Woodland Management Plan**



## MINIMUM GUIDELINES FOR NJ FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLANS

1. Title Page
  - 1a. Signature of Landowner, preparer and State Forester's representative
  - 1b. Stewardship pledge signed by Landowner  
*"As a forest landowner I believe the right to own land also carries the responsibility for stewardship of the natural resource in my care. I have read the attached ten year Forest Stewardship Plan and agree to implement it to the best of my ability."*
  - 1c. Name, address and phone number of landowner and plan preparer
  - 1d. Tax block(s), lot(s) and municipality of parcel
  - 1e. The 10-year period (dates) the plan covers
  - 1f. Date plan was prepared plus any revision dates
  - 1g. Total ownership acres and Stewardship Plan acres
2. Landowner's long range goals for the property
3. Property overview, i.e. general location, major forest types, general landforms, relevant description of landscape, and management history.
4. General discussion of landowners goals and the expected effects of achieving Stewardship goals with soil, water, wildlife, recreation/aesthetics and timber resources. Also include a discussion of any known threatened and endangered species and any known cultural assets, which should be protected or managed.\*
5. Stand descriptions and recommendations
  - 5a. Stand identification keyed to the map
  - 5b. Vegetative Cover type
  - 5c. Size class (sapling, poletimber, sawtimber, etc. basic stock & stand data, and growth are required for stands to be worked in during 10-year period)
  - 5d. Size (acres)
  - 5e. Soil characteristics and erodability (may be covered in a general paragraph if the description is applicable to the whole property)
  - 5f. Stand objective and its relationship to the landowner's goals for the property
  - 5g. Recommendations and a short discussion of the effects of such actions on the soil, water, wildlife, recreation/aesthetic and timber resources.
6. Activity schedule showing all stands and approximate year of recommended actions and FLEP practices (if applicable) for a 10-year period. Include all stands and years, even if no action is recommended. For FLEP, practices 2-11 include **practice** and **component numbers** and **extent** (i.e. acres, feet etc.). Table format is preferred.
7. Map or aerial photograph showing the property with stands and physical features delineated and uniquely labeled. Scale: not larger than 1" = 400 or smaller than 1" = 1,320'
8. Practice plans should be included, as they are needed.

\* Information regarding the presence of threatened or endangered species which might be affected by proposed activities must be obtained from the US Fish, Game and Wildlife Service, 927 N. Main St., Bldg. D-1, Pleasantville, NJ 08232, 609.646.9310. Alternatively, provide a written statement in the plan that the current federal list of threatened or endangered species provided by county and municipality does not identify any federally protected threatened or endangered species in the municipality in which the property is located (specify date of list). It is encouraged statewide that the Natural Heritage Database information also be included and addressed in the plan.

Obtain list from the Office of Natural Land Management, PO Box 404, Trenton, NJ 08626-0404, 609.984.133. Database search can be done free of charge if request is directed through the Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator, New Jersey Forest Service, PO Box 404, Trenton, NJ 08625-0404, 609.986.3860. NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife (contact Tony Petrongolo at 609.984.1401 provides game and non-game animal species information or guidance for assistance).

(Revised August 2003)

## NEW JERSEY FARMAND ASSESSMENT

Landowner: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm #: \_\_\_\_\_

### CRITERIA OF A WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN CHECKLIST

- ☐ 1. A cover page for the plan shall be prepared delineating the following:
  - ☐ a. The owner's name and mailing address.
  - ☐ b. The municipality and county where subject woodland is located.
  - ☐ c. The block(s) and Lot(s) of subject woodland.
  - ☐ d. The amount of acreage of the subject woodland.
  - ☐ e. The name and address of the approved forester who prepared the plan, of not prepared by the owner.
  - ☐ f. The date the plan was prepared and the period time the plan covers.
- ☐ 2. A clear and concise statement of the owner's objectives in managing the woodland.
- ☐ 3. A description of how the property boundaries are or will be marked and delineated.
- ☐ 4. A brief description of past activities that have had an effect on the woodland including, but not limited to wildlife, insect and disease outbreaks, timber sales, planting, thinning, and weedings.
- ☐ 5. A statement description each defined forest in some combination of the following factors:
  - ☐ a. The number of acres.
  - ☐ b. The species composition including overstory and understory.
  - ☐ c. The general condition and quality.
  - ☐ d. The structure including age classes, DBH classes, and crown classes.
  - ☐ e. The overall site quality.
  - ☐ f. The condition and species composition of advanced regeneration when applicable.
  - ☐ g. The stocking levels, growth rates, and volumes.
- ☐ 6. A description of the Silvicultural prescriptions, management recommendations, activities and practices specified and planned for each forest stand, and an explanation of these sequences of treatment are integrated into the overall coordinated plan and time frame to meet the stated management objectives. Such management recommendations and practices shall be prepared for a period of time not less than 10 years.
- ☐ 7. A statement of average overall productivity capabilities of the woodland.

- [ ] 8. A map of the property shall be prepared to include but not necessarily be limited to the following:
  - [ ] a. The owner's name, address, and the date the map was prepared.
  - [ ] b. An arrow designating the north direction.
  - [ ] c. A scale not smaller than 1" = 1320' not larger than 1" = 400.
  - [ ] d. A legend defining the symbols appearing on the map.
  - [ ] e. The location of property lines.
  - [ ] f. An identification of forest stands which are keyed to written prescriptions.
  - [ ] g. A delineation of physical features such as roads, streams, structures, etc.
  - [ ] h. An identification of soil group classes (a separate map can be used for this purpose).
  - [ ] i. A brief description or a map inset of the land for the purpose of identifying the location of the property in relation to the local area.
- [ ] 9. A Schedule of Activities – a summary of prescribed management practices to be carried out in the 10-year period covered by the plan.

# APPENDIX B

**NEW JERSEY  
FOREST LAND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM  
MANUAL**

**NEW JERSEY  
FOREST LAND ENHANCEMENT  
PROGRAM**

**MANUAL**



**FLEP**

**Short Reference  
1-FLEP (NJ)**

Prepared by:  
New Jersey Forest Stewardship  
Committee  
May 2003

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## **PURPOSE**

To encourage multiple resource management of non-industrial private forest land, through educational, financial and technical assistance, for economic environmental and social benefits. By increasing activity and awareness of New Jersey woodland owners, the Forest Land Enhancement Program will help improve the quality of New Jersey forests, while allowing landowners to realize the many benefits of acting as stewards of their land. Providing financial incentives to landowners through FLEP will also help landowners learn the potential of their woodland, while enhancing its value for future generations.

## **GOALS**

1. Establish, manage, maintain, protect, enhance and restore NIPF lands.
2. Enhance the productivity of timber, habitat for flora and fauna, soil, water, air quality, wetlands and riparian buffers on NIPF lands.
3. Assist owners and managers to more actively manage NIPF lands to enhance and sustain the long-term productivity of timber and non-timber forest resources.
4. Reduce the risk and help restore, recover and mitigate the damage to forests caused by fire, insects, invasive species, disease and damaging weather.
5. Increase and enhance carbon sequestration opportunities.
6. Enhance implementation of agroforestry practices.
7. Encourage and leverage state, federal and local resource management expertise, financial assistance and educational programs that support FLEP.

## **LANDOWNER REQUIREMENTS**

1. Owners of non-industrial private forest land or a leaseholder who controls the land for the minimum length of time for any practice to be established; excluding corporations whose stocks are publicly traded or owners principally engaged in the processing of wood products may participate in FLEP. (Public land ownership will NOT qualify.)
2. Qualifying non-industrial private forest land includes rural lands with existing tree cover or which are suitable for growing trees and are owned by any non-industrial private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian tribe, or other private legal entity with definitive decision-making authority over the land.
3. Eligible landowners must have a minimum ownership of 5 contiguous acres. There is no ownership size limit for FLEP.
4. Landowners must have a Forest Management plan to qualify for FLEP. Each landowner must agree to carry out their projects and activities described in their plans.
5. Landowners must agree to a minimum project size of one acre or as defined in the cost-share policy of the selected practice to qualify for FLEP. Minimum acreage exemptions will be granted for riparian practices. Maximum treated areas are limited to 1,000 acres annually, or up to 5,000 acres with an approved waiver exemption.
6. All FLEP practices must be maintained for at least 10 years after completion, unless otherwise specified by the State Forester. Landowners who fail to maintain the practice for 10 years will be required to repay the New Jersey Forest Service the cost-share (plus 10%). If the property is sold and the practice is not maintained, the original landowner is liable for the repayment.

## **FLEP PROGRAM FUNDING**

1. FLEP applications will be approved for funding on a first come, first serve basis continually, until all current funds are obligated.

2. FLEP practices 1 through 11, and their respective components, are eligible for cost-share funding.
3. If state funds become limited, it may be necessary to prioritize applications following an advertised signup period. Practice priority will be determined by the State Forester and a designated subcommittee using the following guidelines: FLEP1 (new plans), FLEP2, FLEP3 and FLEP7 HIGH PRIORITY; FLEP1 (revised plans), FLEP5, FLEP6, FLEP9 and FLEP10 MEDIUM PRIORITY; FLEP4, FLEP8 and FLEP11 LOW PRIORITY.
4. Partial cost-share payments for FLEP practices will not be authorized in New Jersey.

### **GENERAL COST-SHARING GUIDELINES**

1. Applications for FLEP cost-share funding can be requested at any NJFS Regional Office. The Regional Forester or his staff will assist landowners through this process.
2. Cost-share payments will not exceed 75% of the actual cost, nor exceed the maximum payment rate specified for program practices and components, located in the Cost-share Rates and Specifications section of this manual.
3. Average Labor and Equipment Costs

<b>Description</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Average Cost</b>
Landowner Labor	hr	\$20.00
Hired Labor	hr	\$8.00
Bull Dozer, Small D-4 (includes operator)	hr	\$75.00
Bull Dozer, Medium D-6 (includes operator)	hr	\$100.00
Bull Dozer, Large D-8 (includes operator)	hr	\$150.00
Tractor, <75 HP (includes operator)	hr	\$50.00
Tractor, 75-100 HP (includes operator)	hr	\$75.00
Tractor, >100 HP (includes operator)	hr	\$100.00

4. The maximum payment limitation that can be received is \$10,000 per landowner per fiscal year.
5. The landowner will have 12 months to complete a practice. If factors beyond the control of the landowner delay the practice completion, a 6-month extension can be granted. Practices not completed by the completion date will be cancelled and the funds made available to landowners on a waiting list.
6. Practice costs that were incurred before the application was approved are ineligible for cost-share assistance.
7. Landowners will be required to submit bills and receipts to the Regional Forester, before cost-share payments can be calculated and then subsequently paid.
8. Periodic inspections will be conducted under the direction of the State Forester to ensure that practices are being maintained according to required specifications.
9. Failure to comply with the Forest Management Plan or to follow FLEP specifications may require a landowner to repay cost-share benefits. Regional Foresters will conduct compliance inspections within 30 days of notification of practice completion.
10. Where practice failure occurs or performance does not meet specified criteria, for reasons beyond the control of the landowner, the Regional Forester may authorize cost-share payments if:
  - a) The landowner demonstrates to the Regional Forester that a legitimate effort was executed when implementing the practice and as it stands, the practice meets a written landowner objective; or
  - b) The landowner agrees to repeat the practice and additional components that may be determined beneficial by the Regional Forester.
11. If land ownership or land use changes within 10 years of practice completion, the landowner will be obligated to remit all cost-share

payments (plus 10%) to the New Jersey Forestry Services, unless a new landowner agrees to maintain practice compliance.

12. If there is an existing Forest Stewardship Plan on the property, the cost-share for FLEP1 will be a revision.
13. If there is an existing FLA Plan on the property and you are upgrading to a Forest Stewardship Plan, the cost-share for FLEP1 will be a new plan.

### **IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS AND PROCEDURES**

1. An application for cost-share assistance will be made at the local NJFS Regional Office. The Regional Forester will review the application for feasibility.
2. Applicants shall not start implementing any practices, until they have received an approval letter from the Regional Forester. If they fail to wait, they will not be eligible for cost-share assistance.
3. The State Forester will accept appeals of disapproved applications in writing within 30 days of the applicant's disapproval letter. All requests for reconsideration shall contain factual information explaining the basis for requesting the appeal. The State Forester will review the information submitted and render a decision regarding the applicant's request. The State Forester will contact the landowner in writing within 30 days with his decision.

## **FLEP1      FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

- A. The purpose of the Forest Stewardship Plan Development Practice is to develop or revise a forest stewardship plan, or upgrade an existing management plan to meet or exceed Forest Stewardship plan standards.
- B. This practice shall be applied to lands with existing tree cover or suitable for growing trees that are owned by any private individual, group, association, Indian tribe, or other private legal entity.
- C. The objective of this practice is to create forest stewardship plans that will be implemented by informed and committed landowners.
- D. Policies for this practice are as follows:
  - 1. FLEP cost-share funds will only be authorized after the entire NJ Forest Stewardship Program annual funding allocation for plan development has been obligated.
  - 2. Cost-share is authorized for a new forest stewardship plan or revision of an existing land management plan which meet the following criteria:
    - a) The plan must be responsive to the landowner's objectives
    - b) The plan must be action oriented, multi-disciplinary in scope, and developed by a NJFS approved professional resource manager.
    - c) The plan as a minimum shall consider the multi-resource aspects of forest health, fire hazard, timber management and wood products, soil and water quality, stream-side and wetlands management, wildlife and fish habitat management, threatened or endangered species, cultural resources, and aesthetics values.
    - d) The plan should place an equal emphasis on environmental and economic management principles.

- e) The plan must contain recommendations for cost-share practices under any Federal, State or other conservation programs.
- E) Technical Responsibility – Assigned to the Regional Forester.
- F) Maximum Cost-Share – Seventy-five percent of the actual cost, not to exceed \$1,850 for new plans and \$1,000 for revised plans.
- G) Maintenance – Practice must cover a 10-year period.
- H) Technical Standards/Specifications – Minimum guidelines for NJ Forest Stewardship Plans.
- I) Priority Level – High: New Plans; Medium: Revised Plans.



Technical Practices				
<b>FLEP1 – Forest Stewardship Plan Development</b>				
Forest Stewardship Plan Development				
Comp. Code	Component Description	Unit	Cost Basis	Max Pay Rate
F1A	New Plan (5 to 20)	acre	\$24.00	\$18.00
F1B	New Plan (21 to 50)	acre	\$10.00	\$8.00
F1C	New Plan (51 to 150)	acre	\$5.00	\$4.00
F1D	New Plan (151 to 1,000)	acre	\$1.00	\$1.00
F2A	Revised Plan (5 to 20)	acre	\$14.00	\$11.00
F2B	Revised Plan (21 to 50)	acre	\$6.00	\$5.00
F2C	Revised Plan (51 to 260)	acre	\$4.00	\$3.00

## **FLEP2      AFFORESTATION AND REFORESTATION**

- A. The purpose of this practice is for site preparation, planting, seeding or other practices to encourage natural regeneration or ensure forest establishment
- B. This practice shall be applied to forestland which supports or previously supported trees or other woody vegetation or to non-forested lands suitable for growing trees, except where detrimental to the maintenance of significant non-forested habitats, such as prairies and marshes.
- C. The objective of this practice is to establish or re-establish diverse forest communities, to provide wood products and special forest products, and to conserve energy.
- D. Policies for this practice are as follows:
  - 1. Cost-share is authorized for:
    - a) Planting of seedlings and the enhancement of seedlings established through natural regeneration.
    - b) Site preparation.
    - c) Practices to enhance survival of seedlings including control of competing vegetation through the use of chemical and mechanical methods for up to four growing seasons to ensure establishment. Multiple practice applications are permitted during each of the first 4 years with the recommendations of the forester.
    - d) Seedling protection from wind, excessive wildlife and other pest damage (includes tree shelters).
  - 2. Cost-share is not authorized for:
    - a) Planting orchards or horticultural crops.
    - b) Planting trees for ornamental and nursery purposes.

c) Planting for Christmas tree production.

d) Firebreaks.

e) Gates.

E. Technical Responsibility – Assigned to the Regional Forester.

F. Maximum Cost-Share – Seventy-five percent of actual cost, not to exceed the established rate, and the maximum payment of \$10,000 per landowner each year.

G. Maintenance – Practice must be maintained for 10 years.

H. Technical Standards/Specifications – In accordance with NJFS Specifications and Standards.

I. Priority Level – High.

Technical Practices				
<b>FLEP2 – Afforestation and Reforestation</b>				
Afforestation and Reforestation				
Comp. Code	Component Description	Unit	Cost Basis	Max Pay Rate
F92	Brush Blanket (installed)	each	\$4.00	\$3.00
F7	Category I Seedlings (Pines)	1,000	\$170.00	\$128.00
F8	Category II Seedlings (Hardwoods)	1,000	\$250.00	\$188.00
F9	Category III Seedlings (Atlantic white-cedar)	1,000	\$400.00	\$300.00
F6	Chemicals	acre	\$100.00	\$75.00
F24	Direct Seeding – Trees	acre	\$100.00	\$75.00
F17	Disking (Light)	acre	\$25.00	\$19.00
F22	Drum Chopping	acre	\$175.00	\$131.00
F27	Fence Line (electric or box wire)	ft	\$4.00	\$3.00
F20	Forestry Mower	acre	\$1,700.00	\$1,275.00
F4	Hand Planting	acre	\$90.00	\$68.00
F5	Machine Planting	acre	\$40.00	\$30.00
F12	Mechanical Control (Hand Tools)	acre	\$100.00	\$75.00
F14	Mowing (Light)	acre	\$20.00	\$15.00
F16	Prescribed Burning	acre	\$12.00	\$9.00
F19	Root-raking	acre	\$200.00	\$150.00
F21	Shear blade or Root-raking & Pile	acre	\$800.00	\$600.00
F90	Tree Shelter (installed)	each	\$4.00	\$3.00
F23	Woodland Disking	acre	\$200.00	\$150.00

### **FLEP3      Forest Stand Improvement**

- A. The purpose of this practice is to enhance growth and quality of wood fiber, special forest products and carbon sequestration.
- B. This practice shall be applied to existing forests.
- C. The objective of this practice is to enhance the value and quantity of wood products, special forest products, wildlife habitat, riparian resources, wetlands, aesthetic quality, and to prevent insect and disease outbreaks.
- D. Policies for this practice are as follows:
  - 1. Cost-share is authorized for:
    - a) Fencing (excluding boundary and road fences).
    - b) Woodland Improvement activities.
      - 1) TSI requires a minimum commitment of 5 acres or 10% of the stand requiring treatment.
  - 2. Cost-sharing is not authorized for:
    - a) Orchard, ornamental, horticultural, or nursery purposes.
    - b) Christmas tree production.
    - c) Gates.
- E. Technical Responsibility – Assigned to the Regional Forester.
- F. Maximum Cost-Share – Seventy-five percent of actual cost, not to exceed the established rate, and the maximum payment of \$10,000 per landowner each year.

- G. Maintenance – Practice must be maintained for 10 years.
- H. Technical Standards/Specifications – In accordance with NJFS Specifications and Standards.
- I. Priority Level – High.

Technical Practices				
<b>FLEP3 – Forest Stand Improvement</b>				
Forest Stand Improvement				
Comp. Code	Component Description	Unit	Cost Basis	Max Pay Rate
F43	Brush and Vine Control	acre	\$60.00	\$45.00
F6	Chemicals	acre	\$100.00	\$75.00
F27	Fence Line (electric or box wire)	ft	\$4.00	\$3.00
F34	Marking (by NJFS Approved Forester)	acre	\$53.00	\$40.00
F14	Mowing (Light)	acre	\$20.00	\$15.00
F16	Prescribed Burning	acre	\$12.00	\$9.00
F32	Pruning	acre	\$200.00	\$150.00
F35	Stand Improvement (Stems 76+)	acre	\$240.00	\$180.00
F36	Stand Improvement (Stems 25-75)	acre	\$180.00	\$135.00
F90	Tree Shelter (installed)	each	\$4.00	\$3.00

#### **FLEP4      Agroforestry Implementation**

- A. The purpose of this practice is to establish, maintain and renovate windbreaks or other practices using trees and shrubs in conjunction with agricultural land use, including practices for energy conservation and carbon sequestration.
- B. This practice shall be applied to open land and existing hedgerows.
- C. The objective of this practice is to help protect agricultural lands and natural resources from environmental risks, such as damaging weather, disease, invasive species, and insects.
- D. Policies for this practice are as follows:
  - 1. Cost-share is authorized for:
    - a) Purchase and installation of plant materials.
    - b) Control of competition or undesirable species.
    - c) Noncommercial thinning of existing hedgerows.
    - d) Fencing (excluding boundary and road fences).
  - 2. Cost-sharing is not authorized for:
    - a) Orchard, ornamental, horticultural, or nursery purposes.
    - b) Christmas tree production
    - c) Gates.
- E. Technical Responsibility – Assigned to the Regional Forester.
- F. Maximum Cost-Share – Seventy-five percent of actual cost, not to exceed the established rate, and the maximum payment of \$10,000 per landowner each year
- G. Maintenance – Practice must be maintained for 10 years.



H. Technical Standards/Specifications – In accordance with NJFS Specifications and Standards.

I. Priority Level – Low

Technical Practices				
<b>FLEP4 – Agroforestry Implementation</b>				
Agroforestry Implementation				
Comp. Code	Component Description	Unit	Cost Basis	Max Pay Rate

*(Under construction)*

## **FLEP5      Water Quality Improvement and Watershed Protection**

- A. The purpose of this practice is to establish, maintain renovate and/or restore practices to improve and protect water quality, riparian areas and/or forest wetlands and watersheds.
- B. Apply this practice to land covered by woody vegetation, land to be converted to woody vegetation, or closely associated lands that will provide multi-resource benefits.
- C. The objective of this practice is to maintain or improve water quality, maintain or improve soil productivity, prevent excessive erosion, and enhance watershed conditions.
- D. Policies for this practice are as follows:
  - 1. To maintain soil productivity, low intensity site preparation practices should be employed to achieve natural and artificial regeneration. Soil exposure and removal of litter and nutrients should be kept to a minimum.
  - 2. To protect ground water, no practices should be employed which would result in contamination by chemicals.
  - 3. All practices should comply with National Association of State Foresters Stream-side Management Area Guides.
  - 4. All practices must comply with State BMP's for non-point source pollution control.
  - 5. Cost-share is authorized for:
    - a) Reducing erosion, stabilizing stream banks, and rehabilitate gullies.
    - b) Closure and rehabilitation of forest roads, including water barring, mulching, and seeding.

1. Cost-share is not authorized for:

- a) Water level manipulation that would lead to the loss of wetlands.
- b) Construction of forest roads and trails.
- c) Construction of bridges, drainage systems, stream crossings, and traffic control.
- d) Gates.
- e) Riprap and gabions.

- E. Technical Responsibility – Assigned to the Regional Forester. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service can provide technical assistance on stream bank stabilization and gully rehabilitation.
- F. Maximum Cost-Share – Seventy-five percent of actual cost, not to exceed the established rate, and the maximum payment of \$10,000 per landowner each year.
- G. Maintenance – Practice must be maintained for 10 years.
- H. Technical Standards/Specifications – In accordance with NJFS Specifications and Standards.
- I. Priority Level – Medium.

Technical Practices				
<b>FLEP5 – Water Quality Improvement and Watershed Protection</b>				
Water Quality Improvement and Watershed Protection				
Comp. Code	Component Description	Unit	Cost Basis	Max Pay Rate
F91	Brush Mattressing	lf	\$6.00	\$4.50
F7	Category I Seedlings (Pines)	1,000	\$170.00	\$128.00
F8	Category II Seedlings (Hardwoods)	1,000	\$250.00	\$188.00
F6	Chemicals	acre	\$100.00	\$75.00
F76	Fascine or Wattle	lf	\$6.00	\$4.50
F27	Fence Line (electric or box wire)	ft	\$4.00	\$3.00
F77	Fiber Roll	lf	\$12.00	\$9.00
F53	Ground Prep. & Seeding (Non-Woody)	acre	\$375.00	\$281.00
F4	Hand Planting	acre	\$90.00	\$68.00
F10	Herbaceous Plant	each	\$2.00	\$1.50
F89	Livestakes	each	\$2.00	\$1.50
F80	Mulching Materials (Other than straw)	cu yd	\$1.50	\$1.00
F56	Seeding (Non-Woody)	acre	\$50.00	\$38.00
F75	Straw	ton	\$150.00	\$113.00
F55	Streambank Reshaping (Replace vertical streambank with stable slope, usually 3:1 slope)	cu yd	\$3.00	\$2.25
F90	Tree Shelter (installed)	each	\$4.00	\$3.00
F57	Water Diversion	each	\$133.00	\$100.00
F11	Woody Wildlife Plant (1 gal) (3 foot minimum height)	each	\$8.00	\$6.00

## **FLEP6      Wildlife Habitat Improvement**

- A. The purpose of this practice is to establish, maintain and restore practices to create, protect or improve wildlife habitat, including any necessary design and engineering.
- B. Apply this practice to water bodies associated with forestland, including lakes, ponds, wetlands, rivers, and streams that are capable of supporting or can be enhanced to support a continuous, thriving population of aquatic species, including resident. This practice can also be applied to land capable of growing trees and other woody vegetation to provide multiple resource benefits.
- C. The objective of this practice is to protect, restore, enhance, or maintain habitat for all species, improve water quality, enhance forest communities and other natural features for the benefit of wildlife, or to establish artificial structures to provide permanent habitat for wildlife.
- D. Policies for this practice are as follows:
  - 1. Cost-share is authorized for:
    - a) Existing food supply enhancement.
    - b) Fencing.
    - c) Establishing locally native trees or other woody and non-woody vegetation.
    - d) Control of undesirable, detrimental species.
    - e) Snag creation.
    - f) Seedling protection from wind, excessive wildlife and other pest damage (includes tree shelters).
    - g) Nest boxes.

2. Cost-share is not authorized for:

- a. Anything that would have an adverse effect on any threatened or endangered species.
- b. Enhancement of a commercial aquaculture operation.
- c. Installation of a pond.
- d. Purchase of fish.
- e. Purchase of fish food.
- f. Gates.
- g. Structures for human benefits.
- h. Fish habitat.

E. Technical Responsibility – Assigned to the Regional Forester.

F. Maximum Cost-Share – Seventy-five percent of actual cost, not to exceed the established rate, and the maximum payment of \$10,000 per landowner each year.

G. Maintenance – Practice must be maintained for 10 years.

H. Technical Standards/Specifications – In accordance with NJFS Specifications and Standards.

I. Priority Level – Medium

Technical Practices				
<b>FLEP6 – Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvement</b>				
Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvement				
Comp. Code	Component Description	Unit	Cost Basis	Max Pay Rate
F92	Brush Blanket (installed)	each	\$4.00	\$3.00
F7	Category I Seedlings (Pines)	1,000	\$170.00	\$128.00
F8	Category II Seedlings (Hardwoods)	1,000	\$250.00	\$188.00
F6	Chemicals	acre	\$100.00	\$75.00
F84	Create Brush Pile	acre	\$35.00	\$26.00
F17	Disking (Light)	acre	\$25.00	\$19.00
F27	Fence Line (electric or box wire)	ft	\$4.00	\$3.00
F4	Hand Planting	acre	\$90.00	\$68.00
F14	Mowing (Light)	acre	\$20.00	\$15.00
F45	Nest Box	each	\$20.00	\$15.00
F16	Prescribed Burning	acre	\$12.00	\$9.00
F72	Snag Creation	acre	\$35.00	\$26.00
F90	Tree Shelter (installed)	each	\$4.00	\$3.00
F68	Wildlife Habitat Modification	acre	\$800.00	\$600.00
F11	Woody Wildlife Plant (1 gal) (3 foot minimum height)	each	\$8.00	\$6.00



## **FLEP7      Forest Health and Protection**

- A. The purpose of this practice is to establish practices primarily to protect, improve or restore forest health; including control of insects, diseases and animal damage to established stands.
- B. This practice shall be applied to existing forests.
- C. The objective of this practice is to provide security for forest health and protection.
- D. Policies for this practice are as follows:
  - 1. Cost-share is authorized for:
    - a) Forest restoration, other than catastrophic fire and storm events
    - b) Protection of existing forest stands, using the following methods:
      - 1) Spraying (minimum 5 acres) that meets all label requirements, State, Federal and local ordinances.
      - 2) Fencing (excluding boundary and road fences).
        - a. Deer exclusion.
    - c) Tree planting.
  - 2. Cost-share is not authorized for:
    - a) Anything that would have an adverse effect on any threatened or endangered species.
    - b) Spraying insects in residential areas.
- E. Technical Responsibility – Assigned to the Regional Forester.

- F. Maximum Cost-Share – Seventy-five percent of actual cost, not to exceed the established rate, and the maximum payment of \$10,000 per landowner each year.
- G. Maintenance – Practice must be maintained for 10 years.
- H. Technical Standards/Specifications – In accordance with NJFS Specifications and Standards.
- I. Priority Level – High

Technical Practices				
<b>FLEP7 – Forest Health and Protection</b>				
Forest Health and Protection				
Comp. Code	Component Description	Unit	Cost Basis	Max Pay Rate
F7	Category I Seedlings (Pines)	1,000	\$170.00	\$128.00
F8	Category II Seedlings (Hardwood)	1,000	\$250.00	\$188.00
F27	Fence Line (electric or box wire)	ft	\$4.00	\$3.00
F20	Forestry Mower	acre	\$1,700.00	\$1,275.00
F4	Hand Planting	acre	\$90.00	\$68.00
F5	Machine Planting	acre	\$40.00	\$30.00
F12	Mechanical Control (Hand Tools)	acre	\$100.00	\$75.00
F3	Spraying Insects	acre	\$25.00	\$19.00
F90	Tree Shelter (installed)	each	\$4.00	\$3.00

## **FLEP8      Invasive Species Control**

- A. The purpose of this practice is to establish, maintain and restore practices primarily to eradicate or control the spread of invasive species.
- B. This practice shall be applied to existing forests or non-forested lands.
- C. The objective of this practice is to provide techniques to suppress invasive species.
- D. Policies for this practice are as follows:
  - 1. Cost-share is authorized for:
    - a) Control of competition of invasive species, using the following methods:
      - 1) Burning.
      - 2) Chemical.
      - 3) Mechanical.
  - 2. Cost-share is not authorized for:
    - a) Anything that would have an adverse effect on any threatened or endangered species.
- E. Technical Responsibility – Assigned to the Regional Forester.
- F. Maximum Cost-Share – Seventy-five percent of actual cost, not to exceed the established rate, and the maximum payment of \$10,000 per landowner each year.
- G. Maintenance – Practice must be maintained for 10 years.
- H. Technical Standards/Specifications – In accordance with NJFS Specifications and Standards.
- I. Priority Level – Low

Technical Practices				
<b>FLEP8 – Invasive Species Control</b>				
Invasive Species Control				
Comp. Code	Component Description	Unit	Cost Basis	Max Pay Rate
F6	Chemicals	acre	\$100.00	\$75.00
F12	Mechanical Control (Hand Tools)	acre	\$100.00	\$75.00
F16	Prescribed Burning	acre	\$12.00	\$9.00

## **FLEP9      Fire and Catastrophic Risk Reduction**

- A. The purpose of this practice is to establish practices primarily to reduce the risk from wildfire and other catastrophic natural event.
- B. This practice shall be applied to existing forests.
- C. The objective of this practice is to provide strategies to protect forests from total destruction.
- D. Policies for this practice are as follows:
  - 1. Cost-share is authorized for:
    - a) Establishing fire breaks.
    - b) Prescribed burning (repeated burning on the same acreage, not to exceed three times in 10 years).
    - c) Insect and disease control.
    - d) Thinning.
  - 2. Cost-share is not authorized for:
    - a) Anything that would have an adverse effect on any threatened or endangered species.
- E. Technical Responsibility – Assigned to the Regional Forester.
- F. Maximum Cost-Share – Seventy-five percent of actual cost, not to exceed the established rate, and the maximum payment of \$10,000 per landowner each year.
- G. Maintenance – Practice must be maintained for 10 years.
- H. Technical Standards/Specifications – In accordance with NJFS Specifications and Standards.
- I. Priority Level – Medium

Technical Practices				
<b>FLEP9 – Fire and Catastrophic Risk Reduction</b>				
Fire and Catastrophic Risk Reduction				
Comp. Code	Component Description	Unit	Cost Basis	Max Pay Rate
F6	Chemicals	acre	\$100.00	\$75.00
F15	Fire Breaks (15 foot minimum width)	ft	\$4.00	\$3.00
F20	Forestry Mower	acre	\$1,700.00	\$1,275.00
F34	Marking (by NJFS Approved Forester)	acre	\$53.00	\$40.00
F12	Mechanical Control (Hand Tools)	acre	\$100.00	\$75.00
F16	Prescribed Burning	acre	\$12.00	\$9.00
F35	Stand Improvement (Stems 76+)	acre	\$240.00	\$180.00
F36	Stand Improvement (Stems 25-75)	acre	\$180.00	\$135.00

## **FLEP10     Fire and Catastrophic Event Rehabilitation**

- A. The purpose of this practice is to establish practices primarily to restore and rehabilitate forests following wildfire and other catastrophic natural events.
- B. This practice shall be applied to existing forests.
- C. The objective of this practice is to help restore and stabilize the affected area.
- D. Policies for this practice are as follows:
  - 1. Cost-share is authorized for:
    - a) Woodland improvement activities
    - b) Fencing (excluding boundary and road fences).
    - c) Forest restoration.
  - 2. Cost-share is not authorized for:
    - a) Anything that would have an adverse effect on any threatened or endangered species.
- E. Technical Responsibility – Assigned to the Regional Forester.
- F. Maximum Cost-Share – Seventy-five percent of actual cost, not to exceed the established rate, and the maximum payment of \$10,000 per landowner each year.
- G. Maintenance – Practice must be maintained for 10 years.
- H. Technical Standards/Specifications – In accordance with NJFS Specifications and Standards.
- I. Priority Level – Medium



Technical Practices				
<b>FLEP10 – Fire and Catastrophic Event Rehabilitation</b>				
Fire and Catastrophic Event Rehabilitation				
Comp. Code	Component Description	Unit	Cost Basis	Max Pay Rate
F7	Category I Seedlings (Pines)	1,000	\$170.00	\$128.00
F8	Category II Seedlings (Hardwoods)	1,000	\$250.00	\$188.00
F9	Category III Seedlings (Atlantic white-cedar)	1,000	\$400.00	\$300.00
F27	Fence Line (electric or box wire)	ft	\$4.00	\$3.00
F20	Forestry Mower	acre	\$1,700.00	\$1,275.00
F4	Hand Planting	acre	\$90.00	\$68.00
F5	Machine Planting	acre	\$40.00	\$30.00
F34	Marking (by NJFS Approved Forester)	acre	\$53.00	\$40.00
F32	Pruning	acre	\$200.00	\$150.00
F19	Root-raking	acre	\$200.00	\$150.00
F35	Stand Improvement (Stems 76+)	acre	\$240.00	\$180.00
F36	Stand Improvement (Stems 25-75)	acre	\$180.00	\$135.00
F90	Tree Shelter (installed)	each	\$4.00	\$3.00

## **FLEP11     Special Practices**

### **Forest Land Access**

- A. The purpose of this practice is to create forestland access roads and trails.
- B. This practice shall be applied to existing forests.
- C. The objective of this practice is to improve or create access into forestland areas.

D. Policies for this practice are as follows:

- 1. Cost-share is authorized for:
  - a) Forestland access road layouts for vehicle use.
  - b) Forestland trails for foot and small machinery use.
- 2. Cost-share is not authorized for:
  - a) Anything that would have an adverse effect on any threatened or endangered species.
  - b) Layout of roads:
    - 1) To a dwelling.
    - 2) Associated with access to a dwelling.

D. Technical Responsibility – Assigned to the Regional Forester.

E. Maximum Cost-Share – Seventy-five percent of actual cost, not to exceed the established rate, and the maximum payment of \$10,000 per landowner each year.

F. Maintenance – Practice must be maintained for 10 years.

G. Technical Standards/Specifications – In accordance with NJFS Specifications and Standards.

## H. Priority Level – Low

Technical Practices				
<b>FLEP11 – Special Practices</b>				
Forestland Access				
Comp. Code	Component Description	Unit	Cost Basis	Max Pay Rate
F87	Forest Road Design and Layout (8 foot maximum width and \$500 maximum)	ft	\$0.26	\$0.20
F88	Trail Layout and design (5 foot maximum width, 1 mile maximum length and \$500 maximum)	ft	\$0.13	\$0.10

## **FLEP11 – Special Practices** *(continued)*

### **T & E Protection/Enhancement (Plants only)\***

- A. The purpose of this practice is to identify, protect and enhance existing or potential habitat for T&E plants.
- B. This practice shall be applied to existing forests.
- C. Policies for this practice are as follows:
  - 1. Cost-share is authorized for:
    - a) On-site survey of T&E plants
    - b) Report preparation of survey results
  - 2. Cost-share is not authorized for:
    - a) Anything that could have an adverse impact on any T&E
- D. Technical Responsibility – Assigned to the Regional Forester
- E. Maximum Cost-Share – Seventy-five percent of actual cost, not to exceed the established rate, and the maximum payment of \$10,000 per landowner each year.
- F. Maintenance – Practice must be maintained for 10 years.
- G. Technical Standards/Specifications – In accordance with NJFS Specifications and Standards.
- H. Priority Level - Low

*\* Under construction – not available for 2003. Additional information for this practice will be drafted in accordance with updating qualifications of potential botanists and their acceptance for T&E surveys.*

# APPENDIX C

**NEW JERSEY FOREST SERVICE  
FOREST LAND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM  
APPLICATION FOR COST-SHARE**

NEW JERSEY FOREST SERVICE  
FOREST LAND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM  
APPLICATION FOR COST SHARE

FOREST MANAGEMENT USE ONLY	APPLICATION NUMBER:	LANDOWNER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:
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**APPLICANT INFORMATION:**

NAME:	COUNTY:
ADDRESS:	TOWNSHIP:
CITY :	TELEPHONE NUMBER:
STATE AND ZIP:	

**NEEDS STATEMENT:**

This practice, as determined by the Approving Official, is needed.	Signature:	Date:
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**Practice Expiration Date:** Practice must be completed and reported by. **Date:**

**LANDOWNER CERTIFICATION AND AGREEMENT:**

I certify that I/my organization has not treated more than 1000 acres with FLEP cost/share funds this fiscal year on any lands in the US or its territories and I/my organization has not received more than \$50,000 in FLEP cost/share payments since the program began. I agree that I have signed up for the practices listed in items A and B under **PRACTICE INFORMATION** and to the extent requested in C. If I can not complete the practices(s) by the Practice Expiration Date I will notify the Approving Official in writing.

Signature:	Date:
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**PRACTICE INFORMATION:**

FLEP No./ Component Code	Practice Title	Extent Requested	Extent Approved	C/S Rate	C/S Approved	Extent Performed	C/S Earned
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY PARTICIPANT:**

Did you bear all the expense (except for program cost-sharing) for performing this practice? (if no, report names and addresses of other persons or agencies who bore any part of this expense. Also, show kind, extent, and value of their contribution.

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

During the current fiscal year July 1 - June 30, have you received or will you receive a cost-share payment under the same program on this or any other farm other than through this FLEP-01?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATION BY PARTICIPANT:**

I certify that the above information is true and correct. I further certify that the entry in column G shows that the practice was performed in accordance with the practice specifications and other program requirements. I hereby apply for payment to the extent that the Approving Official has determined that the practice has been performed and further certify that this payment is not duplicate of any other earned by me. I agree to maintain this practice for at least 10 years following the year the practice is completed. I agree to refund all or part of the cost-share assistance paid to me, as determined by the Approving Official, if before expiration of the practice life span specified above, I (a) destroy the practice installed, or (b) voluntarily relinquish control or title to the land on which the installed practice has been established and the new owner and/or operator of the land does not agree in writing to properly maintain the practice for the remainder of its specified life span.

Signature:	Date:
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**PERFORMANCE REPORT:**

The above practice(s), listed in columns A, B and D, and performed to the extent listed in column G have been determined by the Approving Official to be satisfactorily completed.

Signature:	Date:
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